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Sustainable development: disaster risk reduction

Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In the two years since the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was agreed by Member States, much progress has been made in reducing disaster risk. Numerous countries have aligned their national strategies with the Sendai Framework, early warning systems have been strengthened, disaster risk management legislation has been enacted and public education and training has intensified.

At the same time, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, hosted by Mexico in 2017 in Cancun, highlighted the enormous challenges that remain. The economic costs of disasters continue to escalate, in some places faster than gross domestic product, as a consequence of poorly risk-informed economic planning and investment. Climate change is increasing and represents a fundamental threat to efforts to reduce disaster risk. It is exacerbating existing natural hazards, with cascading impacts on livelihoods, food security, displacement and even conflict.

The present report provides an overview of progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/226. In accordance with Assembly resolution 71/227, the report also includes a section on effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon.

Integrating disaster risk management, including climate risk, in sustainable development planning and budgets at the national and subnational levels will require strong national coordination mechanisms that meaningfully engage all relevant institutions and stakeholders, as well as coherent support from the United Nations system. This coordination and engagement will be essential if Member States are to achieve the Sendai Framework global target that has the earliest deadline, namely to have national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in place by 2020.

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I. State of disaster risk

1. Two years after their adoption, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are producing tangible results through efforts taken across all levels and sectors. As Member States and stakeholders call for a more ambitious and accelerated pace of implementation, a coherent and integrated approach between the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda, as well as the Paris Agreement on climate change, is vital to ensure that public and private investments in development are resilient to natural and human-made hazards.

2. Throughout the reporting period, severe weather affected progress towards sustainable development worldwide. For example, in May 2017, Tropical Cyclone Donna caused significant damage to houses, services, infrastructure and crops, particularly in Vanuatu. In South America, heavy rains powered by El Niño conditions in March 2017 brought 10 times more rainfall than normal. More than 1.1 million people were affected by flooding and landslides in Peru alone,[1] which damaged homes, critical infrastructure and agriculture. In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew took 585 lives[2] and left a trail of economic losses amounting to $15 billion, with only $5 billion of the losses insured.[3] Haiti bore the brunt of the hurricane, with more than 1.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and an estimated 175,000 displaced.[4] While climate change is increasing the intensity, frequency and variability of extreme weather conditions and exacerbating slow-onset disasters such as drought, the continuing threat of geophysical hazards highlights the importance of a multi-hazard approach to disaster risk reduction.

3. It is estimated that by 2050, the urban population exposed to cyclones will increase from 310 million to 680 million, while exposure to major earthquake risk will increase from 370 million to 870 million people.[5] Exposure of urban assets to sea level rise and flooding could reach $35 trillion by 2070,[5] which is 10 times more than the current levels. Economic losses from earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones and flooding alone are now reaching an average of $300 billion a year,[6] with heavy impacts on key sectors such as infrastructure, energy, agriculture, environment, water, health and education.

4. A risk-informed approach to sustainable development and climate change adaptation has never been more important. In some countries, lessons from the past have deterred investments in infrastructure and social services in hazard-prone areas to an extent; however, the impact of disasters continues to be disproportionately felt in low- and low-middle income countries. Expressed as a proportion of social expenditure, expected annual losses in low-income countries are five times higher than in high-income countries.[6] Increasing population density, widespread poverty and poorly planned development — from erecting hospitals on flood plains to building schools on unstable hillsides — exposes more people, economic assets and

[1] See http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/-PE-Flash_Appeal_ENG_1000_hrs_%28PUBLIC%29-20170410-CV-20519.pdf.

[2] See www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/tcr/AL142016_Matthew.pdf.

[3] See http://thoughtleadership.aonbenfield.com/Documents/20170117-ab-if-annual-climate-catastrophe-report.pdf.

[4] See http://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/haiti-hurricane-matthew-situation-report-no-25-25-november-2016.

[5] R. J. Nicholls and others, "Ranking port cities with high exposure and vulnerability to climate extremes: exposure estimates", OECD *Environment Working Papers*, No. 1 (Paris, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Publishing, 2008).

[6] *Making Development Sustainable: the Future of Disaster Risk Management, Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015* (Geneva, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015).

infrastructure to the risk of disasters every day. Women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, especially in the poorest communities, are often most at risk.

5. Disaster risk reduction is the essence of prevention. With better understanding of disaster risk, strengthened disaster risk governance, resilient investments choices, effective preparedness plans and building back better — essentially the four priorities for action of the Sendai Framework — countries can more effectively reduce risk and prevent loss of life, economic losses and damage to critical infrastructure and ecosystems. Yet, despite the value for money of preventative measures, investments in resilience continue to fall short and countries continue to face costly response and recovery efforts in addition to the lost lives, livelihoods and displacement. In all countries, eradicating extreme poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires that disaster risk reduction be integrated in core social, economic and development planning.

II. Strengthened coherence, guidance and innovation in support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

A. Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

6. The fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Cancun, Mexico, from 24 to 26 May 2017, was chaired by Enrique Peña Nieto, the President of Mexico. The United Nations Secretary-General was represented by the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed. The 2017 Global Platform was the largest to date, with more than 7,000 registered participants, including Heads of State and Government, ministers, mayors and parliamentarians, and representatives of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, local governments, local communities, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, women's groups, children and youth, persons with disabilities, science, academia and the private sector. The first to take place after the adoption of the Sendai Framework, the Global Platform 2017 was an opportunity to assess progress over the past two years. It provided an array of opportunities to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework, build partnerships and augment domestic and international efforts to reduce disaster risk.

7. Confirming the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach for the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework, participants shared lessons and good practice, highlighted the latest technologies and approaches and forged partnerships that strengthen cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, as well innovative partnerships between non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors. Throughout the Global Platform, there was a strong overarching commitment to address disaster risk reduction as a core element of crisis prevention.

8. It was reaffirmed that disaster risk reduction is critical for achieving the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals. There was also important convergence around the need to address climate risk coherently with disaster risk more broadly and in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the need for the delivery of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to be mainstreamed across all sectors. The Global Platform was seen as a fundamental mechanism to foster practical coherence and integration across the implementation of these and other international agendas and to monitor progress.

9. The outcomes of the Global Platform were captured in the Cancun High-level Communiqué and the Chair's summary. The High-level Communiqué outlines commitments made at the Leader's Forum to apply disaster risk management in overall economic planning as a lynchpin for sustainable development, resilient infrastructure and job creation. Among other things, participants committed to conduct a disaster risk assessment of existing critical infrastructure by 2019 and to strengthen the enforcement of regulatory frameworks and building codes. In the light of the tens of trillions of dollars that will be invested in infrastructure in the next decades, it was recommended that a coalition of countries for critical infrastructure be established in order to share knowledge, tools and best practices and to build the capacity of engineers and architects and enhance their understanding and application of risk and mitigation measures.

10. The Chair's summary consolidates the main action points to propel the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the next few years. Intensive efforts are required to ensure that countries can achieve Sendai Framework global target (e) to have national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in place by 2020. This includes building the capacity to collect, analyse and widely disseminate disaster loss data that can provide statistical evidence for use by policymakers, development planners and investors. Standardized methodologies and guidelines for data collection, geospatial and other technological advancements that can anticipate emerging risk, and ongoing work by local authorities and stakeholders to collect disaggregated data at the community and household levels should be mobilized to support this effort.

11. The capacity to promote, establish and manage effective and broad-based partnerships emerged as an important aspect of disaster risk governance that needs to be strengthened. Managing disaster risk is a cross-cutting endeavour that requires inclusive and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms. Concerted efforts are required to adopt specific norms and regulations that enable partnership within and between public and private sectors and ensure participation of stakeholders in disaster risk governance and planning mechanisms. Enhancing women's capacity-building and leadership in the public and private sectors to reduce the gender gap in disaster risk management and decision-making and to ensure gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction strategies was identified as a top priority.

12. The Global Platform also resulted in commitments by stakeholder groups to intensify momentum in implementing the Sendai Framework. These include the Declaration of Local and Regional Governments on the implementation of the Sendai Framework, as well as the Business for Resilience Manifesto of Private Sector Organizations, presented by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE). There was also recognition of the importance of the Dhaka Declaration on Disability and Disaster Risk Management. Countries were urged to implement the Declaration and report progress on its implementation through the Sendai Framework monitoring. Participants also called for the effective operationalization of the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework.

13. The Chair conveyed the recommendations contained in the Global Platform to the President of the Economic and Social Council to ensure a risk-informed approach during the deliberations on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity as well as the Sustainable Development Goals reviewed at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017. The Global Platform was also instrumental in setting the agenda for the regional platforms in 2018, to be hosted by Colombia, Italy, Mongolia and Tunisia, as well as the next Global Platform, to be hosted by Switzerland in 2019. This robust multi-stakeholder process to track progress, guide implementation and promote innovation at the regional and global

levels will provide rich inputs on disaster risk reduction and its contribution to sustainable development when the high-level political forum convenes under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2019.

B. Strengthening action at the regional level to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

14. Galvanized by the regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction, regional intergovernmental organizations, with the support of partners, are working to maximize the benefits of regional cooperation to achieve the Sendai Framework global targets and the associated Sustainable Development Goals. Strategies, workplans and tools have been developed that provide region-specific analysis, policy guidance, tools and capacity-building to support national and local efforts and collectively address transboundary risks. They also guide government ministries and stakeholders from across sectors to execute a coherent and multi-stakeholder approach to disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change adaptation and contribute to the aggregation of regional-level information for monitoring and reporting across sectors.

Africa

15. A comprehensive and coordinated structure has been progressively established from the regional to the subregional and national levels to facilitate the implementation of the Sendai Framework across Africa. Spurred by the regional plan of the African Union Commission for the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa was adopted at the sixth session of Africa Regional Platform and the fifth High-level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, hosted by Mauritius in Port Louis from 22 to 25 November 2016.

16. The Programme of Action provides strategic direction to integrate disaster risk reduction into regional and national sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategies and to mobilize domestic resources to increase the allocation for disaster risk reduction in national budgets. It is accompanied by a five-year action plan to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework global targets, which provides Governments and stakeholders with guidance to develop comprehensive national disaster risk reduction programmes plan based on national and regional priorities and covering the risk of small- and large-scale hazards.

17. The Regional Platform was complemented by subregional platforms and meetings convened by subregional organizations in East, West, Central and Southern Africa. Each gathering resulted in outcomes such as subregional action plans and workplans, joint strategies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and, in the case of the Economic Community of Central African States, the establishment of a dedicated subregional disaster risk reduction unit.

Americas

18. The fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas was hosted by Canada in Montreal from 7 to 9 March 2017. Member States agreed on the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas. Grounded in a whole-of-society approach, the multi-stakeholder plan of action supports countries to build community resilience and reduce disaster risk and impacts. It offers a suite of

practical and actionable regional initiatives to which countries can collectively contribute towards the four Sendai Framework priorities for action.

19. At the subregional level, the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy for the Caribbean, the Central American Policy on Comprehensive Risk Management and the Union of South American Nations initiated processes to align their regional frameworks with the priorities and global targets of the Sendai Framework. In the Caribbean, the harmonization of the monitoring framework of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy with the reporting mechanisms for the Sendai Framework global targets and Sustainable Development Goals indicators is a significant step to promote coherence between disaster risk reduction and sustainable development in the subregion.

Arab region

20. Measures have been taken to develop a regional disaster risk reduction strategy tailored to the specific context and disaster risks in the Arab region. At the third Arab Preparatory Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, hosted by Qatar in Doha from 30 April to 1 May 2017, countries reviewed progress made, discussed common regional disaster risk reduction challenges and shared lessons and best practices in order to update the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. The review process aligned the Strategy to the Sendai Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the Arab Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change initiatives.

21. The conference culminated in the adoption of the Doha Declaration of the Fifth Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction. To advance implementation, the Declaration calls for the development of specific Arab regional tools, methodologies and guidance for risk assessments that benefit from international and regional best practices for disaster risk reduction and take into account the specificities and needs of the region. It also calls for a strengthened role for science and technology for disaster risk reduction in the Arab region, including by nominating a scientific body from each country to be represented in the Arab Science and Technology Advisory Group and accelerating the development of national and regional multi-hazard early warning systems.

Asia and the Pacific

22. Regional and subregional strategies have been finalized across Asia and the Pacific towards a coherent approach to disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change adaptation. These strategies also guide Member States in adopting cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder partnerships. The Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, hosted by India in New Delhi from 2 to 5 November 2016. The Plan comprises disaster risk reduction policy guidance at the national level that includes milestones to guide countries in the pursuit of the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework and a two-year action plan aligned with the four priorities for action set out in the Sendai Framework. Furthermore, the regional road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at the fourth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, held in March 2017, identifies disaster risk reduction as a priority area. Subsequently, in May, ESCAP adopted resolution 73/7 on enhancing regional cooperation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Asia and the Pacific.

23. Tajikistan hosted the first meeting of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia and the South Caucasus in Dushanbe from 12 to 14 July 2016. Ministers and stakeholders from a range of sectors came together to adopt the Dushanbe Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience-Building as well as the Plan of Action for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Central Asia and South Caucasus Region. As the only multi-stakeholder platform in the region, it will serve as the main forum for dialogue, review, monitoring and capacity-building on the Sendai Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change adaptation.

24. At the forty-seventh Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting, held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, from 8 to 10 September 2016, member States endorsed the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (2017-2030) as an innovative integrated framework for disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development. It provides guidance for the coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities for Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda in order to enhance resilience by embedding risk-reduction into social and economic development planning processes. At the annual Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, held in Suva from 24 to 26 October 2016, countries considered ways to facilitate implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development. The outcome statement recommends that countries and territories and partners take the necessary steps to improve disaggregated data collection and analysis of risk factors; explore the development of a Pacific advisory group on science and technology; further develop a multi-hazard early warning system in the region; and document and apply traditional and local disaster risk reduction knowledge systems.

Europe

25. The European Union is taking steps to further incorporate disaster risk in its core work. The European Commission adopted an action plan entitled "A disaster risk-informed approach to all European Union policies", and the European Committee of the Regions issued a joint action plan on implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local and regional levels. To guide and support implementation, the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted a Sendai Framework road map for 2016 to 2020 at its seventh Annual Meeting, held in Helsinki from 6 to 8 October 2016. The road map identifies national and local strategies, risk assessments and disaster loss databases as essential building blocks for implementing the Sendai Framework and integrating disaster risk reduction across sectors at national and local levels, including climate change, the environment, private sector and health. The road map is supported by a four-year workplan adopted at the Council of Europe ministerial session held in Portugal in October 2016.

26. The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction hosted its first multi-stakeholder Open Forum from 26 to 28 March 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. The ensuing High-level Dialogue Communiqué helps to unify the efforts of stakeholders through inclusive and well-coordinated national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction. It also promotes integrating sustainable finance with the disaster risk reduction and climate agendas; raising awareness and the dissemination of risk knowledge through parliamentarians and local communities; and strengthening partnerships on disaster risk reduction to foster economic growth and job creation.

C. Coherence across internationally agreed agendas and frameworks

27. In the interests of efficiency and to maximize impact, it is essential that the various intergovernmental agendas and frameworks that contribute to the 2030 Agenda be implemented coherently. To that end, at its forty-eighth session, the Statistical Commission endorsed the use of indicators developed and agreed by Member States to monitor progress in achieving the Sendai Framework global targets to also monitor implementation of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (Goals 1, 11 and 13) (see E/2017/24/E/CN.3/2017/35, chap.I.A, annex to the resolution). The shared indicators respond to the underlying principles of the 2030 Agenda to enhance coherence and simplicity and reduce the reporting burden for countries. Shared indicators can promote coherence through streamlined reporting against both agreements and the use of common multi-purpose datasets and can contribute to the identification of areas of mutual reinforcement where disaster risk reduction and sustainable development intersect.

28. The open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction, which developed the indicators to monitor the implementation of the Sendai Framework, also endorsed updated terminology related to disaster risk reduction contained in the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the working group (A/71/644 and Corr.1). The agreed terminology can facilitate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and foster cooperation across and within nations, sectors and stakeholder groups. The agreement on terminology also helps countries and organizations to build shared understanding and foster coherent policy across the disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change agendas.

29. In 2017, parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change continued to consider various approaches to measure progress in achieving the Paris Agreement adaptation goal. Aligning this work with that of the indicators for the Sendai Framework global targets and the Sustainable Development Goals will enable national and local governments to draw on similar data sets and identify areas of convergence. National disaster loss data sets are important foundations in climate change planning and are useful in tracking progress with respect to the adaptation goal.

30. The Global Platform demonstrated the growing political commitment to disaster risk reduction as an approach that can encourage coherence within and across sectors. Examples emerged of countries where national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction are being linked to domestic sustainable development processes and to nationally determined contributions towards the Paris Agreement. In particular, small island developing States were highlighted as leaders in pursuing coherence through incorporating disaster risk reduction and climate change considerations into sustainable development. Discussions at the Global Platform also underscored that further work was needed in many countries to strengthen institutional capacity on coherence, dismantle silos and clarify roles and responsibilities.

31. The benefits and failures of coherent approaches are felt most acutely at the local level. Coherence at the international and regional levels must be accompanied by efforts to strengthen capacities to plan, implement and report at the local level. Partnerships between local communities, local businesses and local governments are essential to promote risk-informed development that is rooted in local priorities and to strengthen the coping capacity of local communities, in line with the principles of the Sendai Framework.

D. Coordination of disaster risk reduction across the United Nations system

32. In General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, Member States requested the United Nations development system to enhance coherence, coordination and efficiency at all levels in order to ensure a coherent approach to the interconnections and cross-cutting elements across the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: "Towards a risk-informed and integrated approach to sustainable development" is a significant response to this request and to the repositioning of the United Nations development system.

33. Through the Plan of Action, the United Nations system is committed to strengthening system-wide coherence in support of the Sendai Framework and other agreements that reinforce the 2030 Agenda through a risk-informed approach. United Nations entities have agreed to build their capacity to deliver coordinated high-quality disaster risk reduction support to countries and to maintain disaster risk reduction as a strategic priority. The following is an illustration of activities and initiatives undertaken across the United Nations system to deliver on these commitments.

34. To strengthen system-wide coherence in implementing the Sendai Framework, the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative expanded support to United Nations country teams, Governments and national stakeholders in four new countries in Africa, namely Benin, Guinea, Namibia and Zimbabwe, to develop nationally tailored disaster risk reduction action plans in line with the Sendai Framework. Moreover Georgia released a national disaster risk reduction strategy and the Serbia validated a national implementation plan for disaster risk management, both developed with coordinated technical assistance from the Initiative.

35. The Global Partnership Using Space Technology Applications for Disaster Risk Reduction, comprising seven United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, space agencies, government ministries and academia, agreed on terms of reference and a multi-year work plan. The Partnership will facilitate a coordinated approach for Earth observations, space-based applications, geographic information systems and remote sensing in support of the Sendai Framework.

36. The Global Preparedness Partnership, which will help countries to preserve their development gains from the impacts of natural hazards and climate change by enhancing their preparedness for recovery after disasters, including to "build back better", was launched operationally at the Global Platform in Cancun and opened for country applications in June. The initial phase, which will cover 15 countries over a period of two to three years, will provide up to $130 million.

37. The World Health Organization, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health, has advanced a collaborative approach to the International Health Regulations as a key contribution to the Sendai Framework. Between March 2016 and April 2017, 37 countries completed joint external evaluations that provide countries with valuable inputs to develop national action plans for health security and build capacity to prevent, detect, prepare and respond to events, in particular disease outbreaks and chemical and radiological incidents.

38. The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, a global partnership housed at the World Bank which provides seed money and capacity support to mainstream disaster risk management into national development plans, added more

than 90 grants to its portfolio. Projects provide support to countries with respect to the adoption of policies, plans and investment strategies that minimize disaster risk and build resilience. As an important step towards greater alignment with the Sendai Framework, the Facility's new strategic plan for 2018 to 2020 includes ambitious targets that support achievement of the priorities for action and global targets set out in the Sendai Framework, and also deepens coherence with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

39. The implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action in Asia and the Pacific is guided by the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience. Co-Chaired by ESCAP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Working Group organized technical sessions and developed guidance documents for Member States on coordination across disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development and facilitated a coordinated response to more effectively support the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United Nations Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management 2016-2020. Similarly, disaster risk reduction has been integrated into the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism in Africa, resulting in the formation of a cluster on humanitarian matters and disaster risk management.

40. Towards building the capacity of the United Nations system to deliver coordinated support to countries on disaster risk reduction, the United Nations System Staff College, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction established a partnership to design and develop an online course on disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. The course targets United Nations staff, national disaster risk reduction focal points and development practitioners to enhance understanding on integrated approaches between the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda.

41. At least 20 United Nations entities currently include disaster risk reduction and resilience as a priority area in their strategic plans. During the reporting period, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) have incorporated disaster risk reduction in their strategic plans for 2018 to 2021, thereby reaffirming long-term commitments to adopt a risk-informed approach. Furthermore, in preparation for UNISPACE+50 in June 2018, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has included the use of space-based technologies and information for the Sendai Framework as a thematic priority. FAO has integrated disaster risk reduction in its new strategy on climate change adaptation and mitigation to increase the resilience of agricultural livelihoods.

42. To ensure coherence between the various inter-agency initiatives and to provide strategic guidance to the United Nations system on the implementation of the Plan of Action, the Senior Leadership Group for Disaster Risk Reduction has been established. Convened by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Senior Leadership Group comprises senior leaders from the United Nations and related organizations. An early stocktaking has been initiated to help reduce duplication, identify gaps in the disaster risk reduction support provided by the United Nations system and promote a more effective use of resources. A results-based monitoring system for the Plan of Action has been also established and a study of common system-wide baselines has been launched. Guided by the results-based monitoring system, the Senior Leadership Group will review progress on the Plan of Action, while also promoting system-wide ownership

and accountability at the headquarters and country levels and ensuring linkages and coherence with the 2030 Agenda.

43. In addition, in April, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination advanced the United Nations System Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action. The document aims for improved United Nations system collaboration and guidance on synergies between intergovernmental agreements to ensure coherent and streamlined support, including stronger linkages between policy and operational aspects of the work of the United Nations system in support of Member States on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction.

III. Progress in implementing the Sendai Framework

Monitoring of the Sendai Framework

44. Progress in achieving the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework will be measured using the 33 indicators recommended in the report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction (see A/71/644 and Corr.1). Monitoring at the national level will be supported by the online Sendai Framework Monitor, to be launched in early 2018. After several rounds of end-user consultations, a prototype of the Sendai Framework Monitor was piloted at the Global Platform. A set of optional national indicators has been developed that may be selected and tailored by countries to measure nationally determined targets and priorities aligned with the Sendai Framework. The first report of the Sendai Framework Monitor will be prepared for consideration at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the high-level political forum convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2019.

45. With a robust monitoring framework in place it is important to survey the availability of national disaster-related data, capacity gaps and resources needed to fill them and the availability of current baselines from which to measure the global targets of the Sendai Framework. In February 2017, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction conducted a Sendai Framework data readiness review of 87 countries. Over 90 per cent of countries indicated the need for financial resources to cover data gaps, and many countries, particularly those in special situations, face significant capacity gaps and technological deficiencies which hinder their ability to track progress.

46. A comprehensive approach to data enhancement is required to address data availability, accessibility, application and quality if all countries are to effectively contribute to the first report of the Sendai Framework Monitor by 2019. The Global Partnership for Disaster-related Data for Sustainable Development was initiated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, ESCAP, the Economic Commission for Europe and partner organizations as a multi-stakeholder initiative to assist countries in filling gaps in disaster-related data, building national capacity and improving data quality, while also mobilizing political support.

47. The Sendai Framework Monitor will serve multiple purposes for Member States, regional intergovernmental organizations and local governments. It enables progress to be tracked in implementing the Sendai Framework across sectors, as well as related dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change adaptation. It will simultaneously function as a management tool to help countries develop disaster risk reduction strategies, make risk-informed policy decisions and allocate resources to prevent new disaster risks. Together with national disaster loss databases, the Sendai Framework Monitor can contribute to the development of actionable national and local disaster risk reduction policies and

strategies by 2020 on the basis of on credible data, evidence and available capacities.

National and local disaster risk reduction strategies

48. The Sendai Framework recognizes the importance of supporting national and subnational governments while also empowering local authorities with resources and decision-making responsibilities to reduce disaster risk, as appropriate. The examples below are indicative of efforts by Member States, and the technical and capacity-building support provided by the United Nations system, to meet the deadline for achieving global target (e) of the Sendai Framework to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

49. Policy support and technical guidance were provided to national and local governments in 10 African countries to develop national policies for disaster risk reduction and local resilience plans, as well as disaster loss databases. Twenty-one African countries now have operational databases. This was accompanied by capacity-building measures, including training for more than 400 government staff, workshops on integrated and coherent approaches to disaster risk reduction for parliamentarians and the media and remote support for the implementation of disaster loss databases. Fourteen municipalities from six countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are finalizing local disaster risk reduction action plans, supported by a coordinated approach from the United Nations system. United Nations entities conducted joint disaster risk reduction assessments, updated loss and damage databases and supported the integration of resilience considerations in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks in four countries. Multi-stakeholder capacity-building meetings were held to develop national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans in three countries in the Arab region, while five other countries are in the process of updating their existing legislation and strategies. At the local level, eight governments have developed resilience action plans in line with the Sendai Framework and at least 10 governments are expected to complete their plans by the end of 2017. In the Pacific, countries and territories have made significant progress in developing integrated national disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development strategies. For example, Vanuatu prepared a 15-year National Sustainable Development Plan (2016-2030) that integrates disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as key priorities of the national sustainable development plan.

50. On the basis of the needs identified by Member States, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction continues its capacity-building function through the Global Education and Training Institute in Incheon, Republic of Korea. During the reporting period, 1,224 national and local government officials from 46 countries have been trained, among which 40 per cent of participants were women. The training programme focused on understanding disaster risk reduction and the importance of coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement towards developing integrated plans for resilience.

51. A number of United Nations entities are scaling up their technical and normative support to Member States at the national and subnational levels, in line with the Sendai Framework. For example, the International Labour Organization, FAO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and UNICEF have supported countries to build capacity and formulate sector-specific action plans and strategies for a risk-informed approach. Meanwhile, UNDP and ESCAP are developing guidance tools to support countries in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into sustainable development planning and budgeting processes.

UN-Women is supporting countries in addressing gaps in evidence and capacities for gender equality in disaster risk reduction and in increasing women's participation in developing gender-responsive national disaster management plans. The United Nations Population Fund has made progress in integrating sexual and reproductive health within national and local disaster risk reduction plans, including by establishing a standard for minimum initial service. To maximize impact, make more efficient use of resources and deliver mutual benefits across sectors, support provided by the United Nations system for disaster risk reduction at the national and local levels must be coordinated and coherent and be aligned with the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience as well as the requirements of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

IV. Catalysing the actions of partners and stakeholders and building partnerships

52. The Sendai Framework underscores the need for disaster risk reduction responsibilities to be shared by stakeholders, as appropriate to their national circumstances and systems of governance, and that coordination mechanisms within and across sectors at all levels include clear articulation of responsibilities between public and private stakeholders. Sustainable Development Goal 17 also recognizes that a successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. It is critical to leverage and catalyse strategic partnerships across all sectors and with all relevant stakeholders to implement the Sendai Framework effectively.

A. Stakeholder engagement

Parliamentarians and local government

53. Parliamentarians continue to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, particularly by adopting and amending legislation and advocating for budget allocations for disaster risk reduction. To this end, disaster risk reduction featured in the Inter-Parliamentary Union Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe, held in 2016. Training workshops to strengthen disaster risk reduction capacities were held for the Parliamentarians Network for Resilience to Disasters in Central Africa and the East African Community Regional Parliamentarian Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction.

54. During the parliamentary meeting of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Legislators Organization held a session on disaster risk reduction. Subsequently, in the Cancun Communiqué on the Role of Legislators in Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Well-Being, the links between disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development were recognized. Moreover, at the Global Platform, members of parliaments, the Interparliamentary Union, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, women political leaders, non-governmental organizations and United Nations entities convened to share approaches to strengthen disaster risk governance, promote resilient public and private investments and to develop national and sectoral disaster risk reduction plans by 2020.

Women and girls

55. It is crucial to understand and address the gender dimensions of disaster risk. At the Global Platform, a global programme was launched in support of a gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework. The programme, entitled "Addressing the gender inequality of risk and promoting community resilience to natural hazards in a changing climate", is a partnership of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN-Women and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

56. Gender-responsive disaster risk reduction strategies require the systematic collection of sex-disaggregated data to identify the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls. The open-ended intergovernmental working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction encouraged Member States to initiate or strengthen the collection of data on disaster loss disaggregated by sex. Recording women's assets and economic contributions in disaster loss databases can ensure gender equality is a key component of "building back better" and promote recovery that equally benefits and empowers women. UN-Women is providing support to national authorities to conduct protection assessments and collect and analyse disaster risk data disaggregated by sex. Furthermore, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women drafted its general recommendation No. 35 on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in a changing climate.

Children and youth

57. The Sendai Framework recognizes children and youth as agents of change and encourages that space and modalities be provided for their contributions to disaster risk reduction. In addition to playing active roles in their schools and communities, children and youth have been implementing the Sendai Framework through global activities and have advocated for coherence across the 2030 Agenda through events at global and regional intergovernmental forums, including the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum, the high-level political forum and the Youth Forum. Youth have also been active in promoting intersectional approaches to disaster risk reduction through engaging indigenous youth and youth with disabilities in global campaigns. At the Global Platform, the Youth Engagement Platform was launched as a mechanism to strengthen and consolidate the role of youth and youth-led efforts in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Persons with disabilities

58. Even as persons with disabilities are excessively affected by disasters, their knowledge and leadership skills are essential in building inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies. Since the adoption of the Sendai Framework as an inclusive and people-centred approach, there has been a surge in the participation of the disability community in the development and implementation of the disaster risk reduction strategies. For example, the secretariat of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities integrated the key tenets of the Sendai Framework in the guidelines to States parties on periodic reporting to the Committee. Persons with disabilities played a central role in making the Global Platform and its outcomes not only disability-inclusive, but inclusive of all, including through the innovative use of robotic telepresence that enabled the remote participation of persons with disabilities.

59. The meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and disabled people's organizations in the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction is also evident through the outcome documents. In Asia, disabled people's organizations are

following up on their regional platform commitments by providing technical support to Governments; standardizing tools for collecting and using data on disability, gender and age; promoting universal design and assistive technology; including other most at-risk groups such as women, children and elderly persons in community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives; and building their own capacity in disaster risk reduction.

Indigenous peoples

60. Indigenous peoples have amplified their engagement in international efforts to reduce disaster risk. They have leveraged existing forums, such as the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, to raise awareness of risks faced by indigenous communities and indigenous perspectives on disaster risk and have advocated for new ways of building partnerships to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework in indigenous communities.

61. The fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas provided the opportunity for indigenous people to reflect on barriers and identify opportunities for further action, including the creation of regional indigenous networks to give voice to indigenous advocates for disaster risk reduction. At the Global Platform, indigenous peoples introduced practical recommendations on how to build on indigenous knowledge in implementing for the Sendai Framework and how indigenous peoples can play a more direct role as partners in promoting coherence across the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement.

Private sector

62. The Sendai Framework highlights that the lack of regulation and incentives for private sector investment in disaster risk reduction is an underlying risk driver. ARISE, a global private sector alliance co-chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, aims to coordinate and systematically engage the private sector in disaster risk reduction and mobilize support for the role of the private sector in implementing the Sendai Framework. Throughout the reporting period, ARISE projects have engaged more than 500 businesses, 15 universities, 1,500 students and a host of cities. For example, the City of New Orleans, in partnership with ARISE member AECOM, released the survey report on the disaster-readiness of more than 200 of the city's small and medium-sized business. ARISE in the Philippines issued a six-point commitment statement to prioritize risk-sensitive investment and action and ARISE member SM Prime is working with the Philippines to implement the "build back better" approach in villages affected by Typhoon Haiyan.

63. The Disaster Risk-Integrated Operational Risk model was launched in November 2016, with an initial pilot in 20 countries as a partnership between the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Economist Intelligence Unit. The model helps the business community to make disaster risk-sensitive investment decisions. Moreover, Florida International University in the United States of America, supported by Germany and the Office, collaborated with other universities and business schools to develop open-source white papers for improving existing disaster risk management courses and launched new online course modules.

B. Partnerships and advocacy

Early warning initiatives

64. Progress in improving the capacity of countries to monitor natural, technological and biological hazards and to issue early warnings that can save lives and reduce livelihood losses remains highly variable. As an integral part of efforts to implement the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement, the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative has been established to support the delivery of climate services in least developed countries and small island developing States with a view to strengthening their capacity to issue early warnings and respond effectively. To date, approximately $30 million has been pledged, against an overall target of $100 million.

65. The International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems, co-chaired by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, has been established as a multi-stakeholder partnership that will facilitate the sharing of expertise and good practice for multi-hazard early warning systems. During the preparatory days of the Global Platform, a multi-hazard early warning conference resulted in a set of measures for monitoring access to early warning for countries to track progress towards Sendai Framework global target (g).

66. Furthermore, the Global Meteo Alarm System has been formulated and is being considered by a number of WMO Regional Associations, for the development of an alert system that would provide target users, including the newly established United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre, as well as humanitarian actors and the private sector, with authoritative hydro-meteorological hazard warnings and related information. FAO also developed the Early Warning-Early Action initiative to assist countries to translate forecasts and early warnings into prioritized, multisectoral early action plans for the agricultural sector.

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016

67. The "Sendai Seven Campaign — 7 Targets, 7 Years" was launched on the International Day for Disaster Reduction, on 13 October 2016. The theme in 2016 "Live to tell" focused on Sendai Framework global target (a) to substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030. Examples of events held around the world included a discussion at United Nations Headquarters on the contribution of disaster risk reduction and the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework to the 2030 Agenda and the inclusion of the theme "Live to Tell" during the Great Ethiopian Run in November 2016. The Sendai Seven strategy seeks to recognize best practice in achieving the global targets of the Sendai Framework. The campaign will continue for the next six years, with a focus on a different global target for each year.

World Tsunami Awareness Day 2016

68. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/203, 5 November 2016 marked the first annual World Tsunami Awareness Day. Events worldwide aimed to change the misconception that tsunamis are far-off disasters rather than real hazards that can wipe out progress towards sustainable development and require continuous training and up-to-date evacuation plans. Events at United Nations Headquarters during the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in New Delhi in October, and at the sixth Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Mauritius in November, highlighted what has been done and

where gaps persist in building resilience and promoting early warning. These were followed by a summit for high school students in Kuroshio, Japan, on 25 and 26 November. More than 360 young people from 30 countries came together to share lessons and to issue the Kuroshio Declaration on the role of young persons in tsunami awareness.

69. In the weeks preceding World Tsunami Awareness Day, 24 countries around the Indian Ocean participated in the "Indian Ocean Wave 2016" tsunami simulations. The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas met in Romania in September 2016 and decided to bolster their tsunami warning systems. In the Caribbean, World Tsunami Awareness Day events took place in October 2016 in Trinidad and Tobago during the twentieth Meeting of the Special Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States.

Safe Hospitals Initiative

70. Safe hospitals are central to the implementation of the Sendai Framework, in particular global target (d) related to critical infrastructure and basic services. During the reporting period, a training package for the Hospital Safety Index has been finalized to promote a rapid and low-cost diagnostic tool for assessing the probability that a hospital will remain operational in emergencies and disasters. A total of 25 countries in the Americas now have a national safe hospitals programme; 23 countries have up-to-date standards for the design, construction and operation of new, safe health facilities; and 34 countries are improving the safety of their health facilities through interventions to reduce the effects of disasters. In Europe, 118 hospitals in seven countries were assessed using the Hospital Safety Index by 2016, and 93 experts from the Eastern Mediterranean, Europe and South-East Asia were trained.

Science and technology

71. Science and technology partners actively contribute to disaster risk reduction and shape national and international policy. Progress has been made to reconfigure the Science and Technology Advisory Group to ensure an interdisciplinary, regionally diverse new membership and to reflect the composition of the Science and Technology Partnership. Members will develop the work plan for several of the deliverables of the Science and Technology Road Map for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Regional science and technology advisory groups are also being established to advance the contribution of science policy at the national level and to organize sessions on science and technology at regional meetings.

V. Effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon

72. El Niño and La Niña, the two phases of the El Niño Southern Oscillation, have significant effects on weather patterns across the world, triggering predictable disruptions in temperature, rainfall and winds, with impacts on lives and livelihoods. Typically occurring every three to seven years, the last El Niño event occurred in 2015/2016 and forecasts from WMO and several national agencies indicate the possibility of a weak El Niño developing during the second half of 2017. Even if an El Niño episode does not fully develop in 2017, rising sea surface temperatures and other large-scale climatic patterns may be put into motion that could produce negative impacts in vulnerable countries.

73. The El Niño episode of 2015/16 severely affected more than 60 million people around the world. While the episode ended in May 2016, the impact of drought, flooding and severe storms persisted throughout 2016. By August 2016, 23 countries had appealed for international assistance in East and Southern Africa, Central America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific, seeking over $5 billion. Predictable, recurrent, slow-onset weather events such as El Niño do not need to result in disasters. The scale of international humanitarian assistance required to respond to the 2015/16 episode points to shortcomings in resilience-building, risk reduction and mitigation efforts.

74. The Secretary-General's Special Envoys on El Niño and Climate, Mary Robinson of Ireland and Macharia Kamau of Kenya, through the end of their term in December 2016, led advocacy and communication on the impacts of El Niño and supported moving from a humanitarian response to effectively address the challenges of El Niño and climate change in an integrated manner. They visited seven countries affected by El Niño, and through consultations reaffirmed that early preventive action provides exponential returns and significantly reduced costs associated with subsequent response. Important progress in preparing for and responding to El Niño was noted in a number of countries. At the same time, the need for additional efforts to strengthen early warning mechanisms and effectively translate early warning into early action was highlighted.

75. By the end of 2016, the Special Envoys submitted to the Secretary-General the "Blueprint for Action" on preventing El Niño episodes from becoming disasters. The Blueprint is a tool to support countries most vulnerable to El Niño events in maintaining a trajectory to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in an integrated and coherent way. Its underlying premise is that El Niño events can be predicted, prepared for and mitigated and humanitarian crises avoided. The early action pillar of the Blueprint includes, among others, commitments to establish collective risk analysis to support decision-making with broad engagement of the scientific community and policymakers, as well as agreement on specific thresholds that should lead to early action. Several countries have expressed an interest in adopting the approach. The Blueprint for Action will be supported by inter-agency El Niño Southern Oscillation standard operating procedures that are being developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness and are scheduled for completion by December 2017. The procedures aim to ensure an earlier response by development and humanitarian actors to the warning signs of future El Niño episodes.

76. In June 2017, WMO convened an El Niño round table for ministers and ambassadors in the margins of the Ocean Conference. The event underscored the importance of reliable information, forecasts and enhanced coordination and highlighted the efforts of national meteorological Services to improve forecast information for El Niño events. El Niño was also a focus at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and featured in discussions on issues such as hazard monitoring, forecasting and warnings, bringing the message to communities at risk, strengthening regional cooperation and partnerships and investing in and sustaining early warning systems. In addition, the African Union Commission and Partners for Resilience organized a side event that focused on mitigation of, response to and recovery from, the impacts of El Niño to share lessons learned from Africa.

77. The important contribution of science and technology to building resilience to the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of El Niño Southern Oscillation was discussed during the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, held in New York in May 2017. The Forum made recommendations on how to better identify requirements and options for the adequate provision of science, technology and innovation to enable countries to

address the impacts of the El Niño episodes. In 2017, for the first time, the forum considered emerging technologies and related impacts that covered a wide range of cross-cutting issues, including El Niño and resilience. In addition, some of the innovators selected through the call for innovations to attend the forum exemplified new models of market inclusion of farmers, as well as text-messaging-based meteorological and extension services that could strengthen resilience towards natural hazards, including the impacts of El Niño.

78. The United Nations system, namely FAO, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Food Programme and WMO, contributed extensively to guidance and action planning for El Niño across the world. The approach recognized the multisectoral nature of El Niño impacts, including the impact on food security, livelihoods, health and water and sanitation. Moreover, additional activities undertaken to strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, through collaboration with international monitoring centres, including national oceanographic institutions, enhance regional and international recognition of and support for the Centre and provide support in the development of tools for decision makers and government authorities aimed at reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

79. It has now been two years since the Sendai Framework was agreed by Member States, during which time much progress has been made in reducing disaster risk. Numerous countries have aligned their national strategies with the Sendai Framework, early warning systems have been strengthened, disaster risk management legislation has been enacted and public education and training has intensified.

80. At the same time, as was highlighted at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2017, enormous challenges remain. The economic costs of disasters continue to escalate; in some places faster than gross domestic product, a consequence of poorly risk-informed economic planning and investment. Climate risk is increasing and threatens to exacerbate existing natural hazards, with manifold impacts on livelihoods, food security, the movement of people and even conflict.

81. International agreements, such as the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda create an unprecedented opportunity to respond to these enormous global challenges, with the 2030 Agenda providing the overarching framework for the incorporation of climate and disaster risk in core economic, social and environmental planning and investments, at the regional, national and subnational levels.

82. One useful contribution to building coherence among these international instruments is ensuring that their reporting and accountability mechanisms are efficient and avoid duplication. The agreement to use the indicators developed to monitor progress in achieving the Sendai Framework global targets to also monitor the implementation of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals is an important step in this direction. Further opportunities to build this coherence will emerge as the methodologies for reporting on progress in the Paris Agreement are refined and as new international instruments are developed on critical issues, such incorporating disaster risk reduction in measures to protect vulnerable migrants and refugees.

83. Integrating disaster risk management, including climate risk, in sustainable development planning at national and subnational levels will require strong national coordination mechanisms that meaningfully engage all relevant institutions and

stakeholders. This coordination and engagement will be essential if Member States are to achieve the Sendai Framework's global target that has the earliest deadline, namely to have national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in place by 2020.

84. National and local disaster risk reduction strategies can promote the integration of disaster risk management, including climate risk, technological, chemical, industrial and biological risk, across all development sectors and levels of administration, creating an enabling environment for public institutions, the private sector and civil society to cooperate in reducing disaster risk and to promote risk-informed development.

85. Managing disaster risk requires the active engagement of numerous stakeholders. The engagement of the private sector is essential. More than 70 per cent of the tens of trillions of dollars in investment in new infrastructure in the decades ahead will be made by the private sector. It will fundamentally be up to the private sector to ensure these investments are risk informed.

86. Similarly, engaging women's groups is key, given the disproportionate impact that disasters have on women, but more importantly because of the hugely disproportionate role women currently play in designing and implementing measures to reduce disaster risk. The Global Platform, and the regional platforms leading up to it, have confirmed the benefits of multi-stakeholder engagement to assess progress, identify ways to address common challenges, foster sustainable development that integrates disaster risk management and develop public-private-civil society partnerships to reduce disaster risk.

87. Normative and regulatory frameworks at all levels and their consistent application and enforcement play an important role in reinforcing accountability for disaster risk management. In this respect, the international instrument on the protection of persons in the event of disasters proposed by the International Law Commission is a significant contribution.

88. The United Nations system is also aligning its own efforts to support Member States in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, through the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience and the General Assembly resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and through the ongoing reforms of the United Nations development system.

89. The United Nations trust fund for disaster reduction is the instrument to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and it requires increases in the volume, predictability and timeliness of funding.

90. It is recommended that:

(a) States identify opportunities to coherently incorporate the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement into social and economic planning and investments within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) States continue to prioritize and resource the development of inclusive national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, as a key element of efforts to reduce climate risk and disaster risk more broadly;

(c) States continue efforts to create or enhance systems to record disaster losses and to establish baselines as reference points for measuring improvements, underpinned by data which are to the greatest extent possible disaggregated by income, sex, age and disability;

(d) States consider the Sendai Framework indicators and the recommendations of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction in the development of metrics to monitor the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change;

(e) States take into account disaster risk reduction and the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the preparatory process and deliberations of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including in the voluntary national reviews;

(f) States enhance international cooperation, global partnerships and the provision of means of implementation to support least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and, in that context, ensure that bilateral and multilateral development assistance programmes are risk informed;

(g) States consider augmenting their financial contributions to the United Nations trust fund for disaster reduction to support the efforts of Member States to manage and reduce their disaster risk and implement the Sendai Framework.